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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/250,834	02/16/1999	MARY KATHERINE ROBINSON	5079D1-07-LA	2533

29668 7590 12/21/2004

PFIZER, INC.
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EXAMINER

CORBIN, ARTHUR L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1761

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/250,834

Applicant(s)

ROBINSON ET AL.

Examiner

Arthur L Corbin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 101404.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 23-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Irie et al (Japanese patent publication 8-154589, pages 4-5).

Irie et al discloses a granular substance for use in chewing gum. The substance is composed of a flavor, a coloring agent and Palatinit (isomalt) granules having a 10-50 mesh size. Applicant's method limitations in claims 23 and 25-27 are entitled to no patentable weight in applicant's product claims.

4. Claims 23-27 and 30 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jean (French patent 2,748,902 (page 2 and claim 1)

Jean discloses isomalt crystals of about 1 mm in diameter, which are added to bubble gum to provide a crunchy effect. Also, see the last sentence in paragraph no. 3 above.

5. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jean.

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Finding the optimum mesh size of the isomalt would require nothing more than routine experimentation by one reasonably skilled in this art as long as the isomalt provides a crunchy effect to the gum.

6. Claims 32- 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irie et al in view of Forkner.

It would have been obvious to prepare the Palatinit granules in Irie et al by heating the Palatinit, cooling and then granulating since it is conventional to prepare sugar containing granules by such a procedure, as evidenced by Forkner (col. 13, lines 30-50). Finding the optimum heating temperature (claims 32 and 34-36) would require nothing more than routine experimentation by one reasonably skilled in this art.

7. Claims 32-36, 39 and 40 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jean in view of Forkner.

Forkner is applied as in paragraph no. 6 above.

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 23-40 submitted August 9, 2004 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arthur L. Corbin whose telephone number is (571) 272-1399. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 10:30 am to 8:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on (571) 272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A. Corbin/af
December 17, 2004



ARTHUR L. CORBIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
12-17-04